



# Flight Opportunities



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Dear Flight Opportunities community,

Recently, I announced that I will be phasing into my retirement and stepping down from the Program Manager position. As I begin this process, I am grateful for and proud of the community that we have built through the efforts of this ambitious program.

When I began my career at NASA in 1975, I could not have known that my time with the agency would culminate in managing a program in which NASA itself—along with other research organizations—would be a customer of commercial suborbital flight services, helping to mature promising technologies and advancing the availability of space to private companies. Fostering and leveraging the power and agility of the U.S. commercial sector have been at the core of the Flight Opportunities program since its inception.



Ronald Young, Program Manager

Indeed, working with industry in this way is a very new model for the agency--a way to look to the future of exploration and the possibilities that expanding access to space offers. I am proud of what our team has accomplished--a model that is being adopted more at NASA, in programs such as the upcoming Commercial Lunar Payload Services.

As I look to my own future, I am wishing the Flight Opportunities team—and all of you—success in your future research and flight demonstrations. As we have seen time and time again, we can learn so much when we press ahead. The lessons we learn in one endeavor set us up with the tools we need for the next.

In addition to this news, we're also covering a few other notable items in this issue:

- A reminder about the upcoming REDDI solicitation deadline on June 8
- A feature covering the recent Blue Origin flight
- Reminders about important upcoming events—mark your calendars!

Thank you as always for reading and for being a valued part of this growing community.

With gratitude,

**Ronald Young**, Program Manager  
NASA's Flight Opportunities Program

*“Working with industry in this way is a very new model for the agency—a way to look to the future of exploration and the possibilities that expanding access to space offers. I’m proud of what our team has accomplished.”*

— Ron Young, program manager, Flight Opportunities

# Opportunities

## SpaceTech-REDDI Proposals Due June 8

NASA has released a solicitation, titled “NASA Flight Opportunities (FO): Technology Advancement Utilizing Suborbital Flight Opportunities” as an Appendix to the Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD) NASA Research Announcement (NRA), titled “Space Technology Research, Development, Demonstration, and Infusion 2018 (SpaceTech- REDDI-2018).”

Proposals are due on or before June 8, 2018, and selections will be announced in November 2018 (target). Proposals must be submitted electronically using NASA’s proposal data system, [NSPIRES](#).

Technical, programmatic, and procurement comments and questions may be addressed by e-mail to [HQ-STMD-FO@nasaprs.com](mailto:HQ-STMD-FO@nasaprs.com). Responses to inquiries will be answered by e-mail and may also be included in the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) document](#) located on [NSPIRES](#); anonymity of persons/institutions who submit questions will be preserved.



## Recent Flights

### Blue Origin Launches WiFi to Space Along With Other Promising Technologies

A company vying to be the first internet service provider in space, as well as a NASA monitoring system for testing technologies on suborbital vehicles, were both carried into space when [Blue Origin](#) successfully launched its [New Shepard rocket](#) on April 29.

[Solstar's](#) space communicator services aim to securely and conveniently connect people and technology in space to Earth via any internet connected device. Named for Apollo 17 astronaut and U.S. Senator, Harrison “Jack” Schmitt, the Schmitt Space Communicator Xperimental technology (SC-1x) may connect researchers on the ground and in space to improve exploration.

The New Shepard flight was also the first Flight Opportunities-funded demonstration for the [Suborbital Flight Experiment Monitor \(SFEM-2\)](#) from [NASA's Johnson Space Center](#). The primary objective for the experiment was to evaluate suborbital vehicles as potential test platforms for future space technology. The flight also provided an early assessment of an acoustic sensor that is now being tested on the [International Space Station](#) and has been selected for the [Orion spacecraft](#).

More information about the recent flight is available in the [Flight Opportunities web feature](#) as well as the [Blue Origin press release](#).



*Katy Hulbert (center), principal investigator for NASA JSC's SFEM-2, and team members Alex Kim (right) and Hiep Nguyen prepare the experiment for flight. NASA photo*



Dr. Charles "Marsh" Cuttino represented his company, Orbital Medicine, along with the Flight Opportunities program, at NASA's Technology Day on Capitol Hill on May 9. The event highlighted new aerospace technologies, including those that may enable future exploration missions. Dr. Cuttino showcased Orbital Medicine's Evolved Medical Microgravity Suction Device, which was also highlighted in our [April 2018 issue](#).



## Upcoming Events & Important Dates

- June 8, 2018: [SpaceTech-REDDI-2018 F1 proposals due](#)
- June 19-23, 2018: [Spaceport America Cup](#)
- June 25-28, 2018: [CRASTE](#)
- July 23-26, 2018: [ISS R&D Conference](#)

Have ideas or feedback for the Flight Opportunities newsletter?

Drop us a line at: [NASA-FlightOpportunities@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:NASA-FlightOpportunities@mail.nasa.gov)

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**NASA Flight Opportunities Program**

650-604-5876 (Stephen Ord - Technology Manager) | [www.nasa.gov/flightopportunities](http://www.nasa.gov/flightopportunities)

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